Increase in AIDS cases

545. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the country spending around $40 million on its AIDS Control Programme, the incidence of this disease are still on the increase and is likely to grow from 4 million cases to 8.9 million by the middle of this decade; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to prevent the spread of this disease in the country and to bring awareness among the people to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In order to track the trends in the spread of HIV infections in the country, the National AIDS Control Organisation conducts a nation-wide sentinel surveillance round each year. This data is also used towards estimation of total HIV infections in the country, taking into consideration certain assumptions finalized after consultation with the national and international experts. The National AIDS Control Organisation has not made any future projection in respect of the number of HIV infections.

Accordingly, the numbers of persons infected with HIV were 3.5 million in 1998; 3.7 million in 1999; 3.86 million in 2000 and 3.97 million in 2001. These estimates indicate that there has not been any unsurge in the spread of HIV infection in the country. However, this number is a cause of concern and there can be no slackening of efforts to prevent and control the spread of this disease.

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt, of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

Preventive interventions for high risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communications.

Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services,

information education and communication(IEC) and awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initative.

Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.

Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including interventions and public-private partnerships.

Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and Programme Management.

In order to increase awareness among the general population in order to motivate behaviour change, the State AIDS Control Societies are implementing various IEC activities under the programme. National AIDS Control Organisation is utilizing the services of the different units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati (DOORDARSHAN & AAKASHVANI) for dissemination of messages. Services of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity. Song and Drama Division and Press Information Bureau are being used for outreach activities using print, electronic and outdoor media, in various parts of the country.

For sensitization of children and young people, School AIDS Education Programme, the UniversitiesTalk AIDS and VillageTalk AIDS Programmes are being implemented in collaboration with Ministry ofYouth Affairs and Sports.

The programme has an inbuilt monitoring and evaluation component, which tracks the implementation of various components of the programme and also ensures evidence based programming.

Safe Motherhood

546. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes and schemes with revenue Implications, both existing and proposed, designed to make motherhood safe;